

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-35, 37-39, 42 and 43 and added new claim 44 to better define the invention. Applicant has added a period to claim 41. Claims 36, 40, 41 and 44 are currently pending.

Claim Rejection – 103

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0149500 to Faruque et al. (Faruque), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,212,441 to Hazama et al. (Hazama).

Examiner states that Faruque teaches a system that includes data concerning crash impact, durability and noise characteristics of the model. Applicant has revised the claims to better show that the present invention not only includes data regarding these characteristics, but also tests and evaluates impact, durability and noise using virtual simulation of the model. (See paragraph 0024: “As so included in the master database, the computer simulation format data record may be accessed for evaluation with respect to one or more than one of crash impact, durability and noise, and after such an evaluation, the data record for the assembly may be modified after an evaluation event, taking into consideration, appropriate feedback concerning the assembly, as a result of the event.”)

Faruque does not mention the words “noise” or “durability.” Faruque does not disclose testing or evaluations as to durability and noise. One skilled in the art would recognize the unique features of the present invention and would not have thought the present invention obvious in light of Faruque or Faruque combined with any of the other art cited. In view of the novel features of claim 44, and in that all the remaining claims depend on claim 44, it is respectfully submitted that this application is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Conclusion

As evidenced by the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in form to be passed to allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions, applicants' undersigned attorney requests that the Examiner initiate a telephone call to expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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